(b) Necessary legislative, fiscal and administrative measures are continuously taken to prevent the generation and flow of black money. Rates of taxation have been progressively rationalized. Various provisions in the Income Tax Act; like compulsory maintenance/audit of accounts in appropriate cases under section 44AA/44AB, restrictions on cash transactions under section 40A(3), 269SS, 269T and penalties/prosecutions for punishing tax defaulters, are aimed at preventing generation and flow of black money. Searches and surveys in appropriate cases are continuously undertaken to unearth the black money. General information is also gathered by the Central Information Branches of the Income Tax Department about various financial transactions. Simplification of procedures for filing returns and for making payment of taxes are also directed towards greater compliance by the tax payers, which will be an anti-dote to tax evasion.

Pending cases of IT refund

2901. SHRI CHO S. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total backlog of IT refunds, sector-wise pending for more than three years;

(b) what are the reasons for this backlog;

(c) what steps are being taken to clear the outstanding of these refunds; and

(d) by when this exercise will be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL) : (a) There are 2769 Income Tax Refund Cases pending for more than three years in Kolkata, Chennai, Guwahati and Delhi.

(b) Large number of cases are pending for verification of payments/ TDS Certificates, Non-furnishing of proof for relief/rebates claimed, changed addresses of assessees etc.

(c) and (d) The claims and issue of refunds are the on-going process. The Pending Income Tax Refund Cases are being closely monitored and the officers have been directed to settle the pending cases on priority basis.